

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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S E C R E T STATE 154414

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), PEPR, IS, US

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF VICE PRESIDENT

REFS: A. CAIRO 15113 B. CAIRO 15181

1. IN ADDITION TO POINTS YOU HAVE ALREADY MADE TO MUBARAK,
PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING TO EGYPTIANS IN RESPONSE TO THEIR
DISAPPOINTMENT THAT VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE VISITING ONLY
ISRAEL ON HIS UPCOMING MIDDLE EAST TRIP.

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2. VICE PRESIDENT IS GENUINELY REGRETFUL HIS SCHEDULE
DOES NOT PERMIT VISITS TO OTHER MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES
ON THIS OCCASION. EGYPTIANS MUST ALSO UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER,
THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO ISRAEL IS
TO HONOR ISRAEL ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY AND THAT
IF HE WERE TO VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES THIS PURPOSE WOULD

BE DILUTED. IT IS OF COURSE IMPOSSIBLE FOR U.S. OFFICIALS ON EVERY OCCASION TO MAKE VISITS TO BOTH ISRAELI AND ARAB SIDES. EGYPTIANS WILL RECALL THAT PRESIDENT CARTER STOPPED IN EGYPT (AS WELL AS SAUDI ARABIA) IN JANUARY FOR TALKS WITH SADAT IN ASWAN WITHOUT GOING TO ISRAEL ON THAT OCCASION.

3. WE APPRECIATE THAT TRIP WILL UNDERLINE, IN EYES OF ARABS AND OTHERS, SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT U.S. HAS LONG HAD WITH ISRAEL. FACT OF THIS RELATIONSHIP, HOWEVER, IS NOTHING NEW AND HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED BY SADAT AS KEY FACTOR IN ROLE HE EXPECTS US TO PLAY IN HELPING TO BRING ABOUT A PEACE SETTLEMENT. ONE MAJOR AIM OF U.S. DIPLOMACY OVER PAST FOUR YEARS HAD BEEN TO SHOW TO OUR FRIENDS IN ARAB WORLD THAT U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL IS IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF OUR ABILITY TO PLAY EFFECTIVE AND IMPARTIAL ROLE IN HELPING TO RESOLVE MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE. WE WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED IF OUR ARAB FRIENDS INTERPRETED THIS CEREMONIAL GESTURE TO MARK ISRAEL'S ANNIVERSARY AS SIGN OF U.S. PARTIALITY AS FAR AS OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO PROMOTE MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT ARE CONCERNED.

4. WE OURSELVES VIEW TRIP, ON CONTRARY, AS CONTRIBUTION TO OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL IS ASSET TO SADAT'S STRATEGY
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IN REGION. VICE PRESIDENT WHILE IN ISRAEL WILL NOT BE DEALING WITH SPECIFICS OF ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATING SITUATION, ALTHOUGH GENERAL SUBJECT IS LIKELY OF COURSE TO BE DISCUSSED, AND WE BELIEVE OPPORTUNITY HE WILL HAVE TO STRESS PRINCIPLES OF U.S. POLICY DURING VISIT CAN HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON PEACE PROCESS. AS AMBASSADOR EILTS HAS ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH SADAT, U.S. PROMOTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL COME IN DIFFERENT MANNER. WE ASK EGYPTIAN LEADERS TO UNDERSTAND VICE PRESIDENT TRIP IN CONTEXT WE HAVE DESCRIBED AND TO SEE IT AS INTEGRAL PART OF PROCESS IN STRENGTHENING U.S. ROLE IN OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PEACE SETTLEMENT.

5. INFO ADDRESSEES IN ARAB CAPITALS MAY ALSO DRAW ON FOREGOING AS APPROPRIATE IF HOST GOVERNMENTS MAKE SIMILAR QUERIES ABOUT VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP.
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